

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 041040Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2561

C O N F I D E N T I A L 1121

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ENRG

SUBJECT: OCCIDENTAL DISPUTE WITH LIBYAN GOVERNMENT

REF: STATE 235751

1. LARG (DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY TRAYKI FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY) IS CONTINUING TO DODGE US AND IS REFUSING TO GRANT OUR URGENT REQUESTS FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO SEEK CLARIFICATION OF ORDER PROHIBITING TRAVEL BY U.S. EMPLOYEES OF OCCIDENTAL AND THEIR FAMILIES.

2. CHARGE DID SPEAK TO MFA DIRECTOR OF NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS SHAABAN OCTOBER 4 BY TELEPHONE. CHARGE STRESSED THAT U.S.G. COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY U.S. CITIZENS WERE BEING TREATED AS HOSTAGES AS A RESULT OF A COMMERCIAL DISPUTE, AND ASKED FOR IMMEDIATE CLARIFICATION OF THE ORDER, UNDERLINING THAT IN OUR VIEW IT SHOULD IMMEDIATELY BE CANCELLED. SHAABAN DID NOT SEEM EVEN TO BE AWARE OF CHARGE'S MEETING WITH TRAYKI ON OCTOBER 1. HE PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE SITUATION.

3. SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REPLY TO INQUIRIES BY SAYING THAT EMBASSY HAS CONFIRMED THAT U.S. CITIZEN EMPLOYEES OF OCCIDENTAL, AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, ARE BEING PREVENTED FROM LEAVING THE COUNTRY AS A RESULT OF THE DISPUTE BETWEEN OCCIDENTAL AND THE GOVERNMENT, BUT THAT ALL OF THE AMERICANS INVOLVED ARE SAFE, AND THAT IN OUR VIEW THEY ARE NOT IN ANY DANGER. SO FAR LIBYAN GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED TO ANSWER THE EMBASSY'S URGENT REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION.

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